



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 11, 2004

### **H.R. 2729**

### **Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission Efficiency Act of 2004**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Education and the Workforce  
on May 5, 2004*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 2729 would amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act to increase the membership of the Occupational Safety and Review Commission (OSHRC) from three to five.

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2729 would cost \$1 million in 2005 and \$5 million over the 2005-2009 period, assuming the appropriation of the estimated amounts. H.R. 2729 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 2729 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2729 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
OSHRC Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	10	10	11	11	11	12
Estimated Outlays	10	11	11	11	11	12
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	1	1	1	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	1	1	1	1	1
OSHRC Spending Under H.R. 2729						
Estimated Authorization Level	10	11	12	12	12	13
Estimated Outlays	10	12	12	12	12	13

a. The 2004 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission. The amounts shown for 2005 through 2009 are baseline projections that assume annual increases for anticipated inflation.

## BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted in the fall of 2004, that the estimated amounts will be appropriated for each year, and that outlays will follow historical spending patterns for the authorized activities.

H.R. 2729 would amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act to increase the membership of OSHRC from three to five. OSHRC is an independent federal agency created to adjudicate contests of citations or penalties resulting from inspection of work places; therefore, OSHRC functions as an administrative court.

According to agency documents, each Commissioner is appointed for a six-year term and is aided directly by two professional staff who are responsible for providing assistance and legal counsel on all pending matters. CBO assumes the current staffing practice would be extended under the bill. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2729 would cost \$1 million in 2005 and \$5 million over the 2005-2009 period, assuming the appropriation of the estimated amounts.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 2729 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

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